

- Song 26 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Two Witnesses’ Are Killed and Brought Back to Life”:** (10 min.)
 Re 11:3—“Two witnesses” prophesy for 1,260 days (w14 11/15 30)
 Re 11:7—They are killed by “the wild beast”
 Re 11:11—The “two witnesses” are brought back to life after “the three and a half days”
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
 Re 10:9, 10—How was the message given to John both “bitter” and “sweet”? (it-2 880-881)

Re 12:1-5—How were these verses fulfilled? (it-2 187 ¶7-9)

What has this week’s Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week’s Bible reading?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Re 10:1-11 (10)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call Video:** (4 min.) Play and discuss the video.
- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (6)
- **Initial Call:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation in an informal setting appropriate to your territory. (3)
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LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 148
- **“The Earth ‘Swallowed Up the River’”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Korean Brothers Released From Prison* (video category OUR ORGANIZATION).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jj* chap. 94
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 47 and Prayer

REVELATION 10-12 | “Two Witnesses” Are Killed and Brought Back to Life

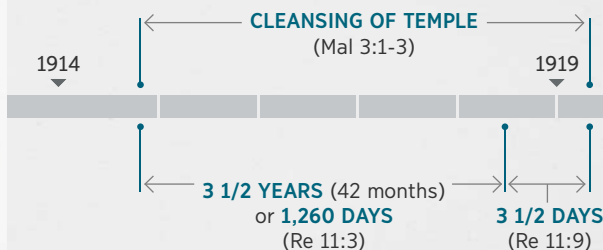


11:3-11

- **“Two witnesses”:** The small group of anointed brothers who were taking the lead when God’s Kingdom was established in 1914
- **Killed:** After preaching for three and a half years “in sackcloth,” they were “killed” when they were imprisoned and forced into inactivity
- **Returned to life:** At the end of the symbolic three and a half days, they returned to life when they were released from prison and resumed taking the lead in the preaching work

PROPHETIC TIME LINE

Revelation 11:1, 2 links these events to the inspection and cleansing of the spiritual temple described at Malachi 3:1-3.



You Did It for Me

(Matthew 25:34-40)

E_b *B_b7sus4/*E_b**

Oth - er sheep Je - sus has, and they
 "Yes, you com - fort - ed me in my
 "You've been loy - al to me, do - ing

E_b *B_b7sus4/*E_b* *E_b**

serve a - long - side those a - noint - ed to
 hun - ger and thirst, and what - ev - er my
 works that are fine, as you preach a - long -

G_m *A_badd9* *B_b7sus4*

be Christ's heav - en - ly bride.
 need, you came to me first."
 side these broth - ers of mine."

B_b *C_m* *G_m*

All the things that are done for their
 "Tell us, when did we do this?" these
 So the King will then say to the

You Did It for Me

Bbm11 Eb7 Ab Fm

com - fort and aid Are things he con -
ones will re - ply. The King will then
sheep on his right: "In - her - it the

Eb/G Ab Cm Bbsus4

sid - ers that must be re - paid.
an - swer and them, tell - ing them why:
earth and per - fec - tion of life."

Bb Chorus Ab/C Bb/D Eb

"If you com - fort - ed them, you

Ab/C Bb/D Eb

com - fort - ed me. If you

You Did It for Me

Fm7 Gm Abadd9 Bbsus4

did it for them, you did it for me.

Bb Ab/C Bb/D Eb Eb/G

Your la - bors for them were your la - bors for

Ab Bb/Ab Ab Eb/G

me. You did it for them; you

B° Cm Cm7 Fm7

did it for me. If you did it for

Eb/Bb Bb7sus4 Eb

them, you did it for me."

(See also Prov. 19:17; Matt. 10:40-42; 2 Tim. 1:16,17.)

darkened,^a also the air, by the smoke of the shaft.* **3** And locusts came out of the smoke onto the earth,^b and authority was given to them, the same authority that the scorpions of the earth have. **4** They were told not to harm the vegetation of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.^c

5 And it was granted the locusts, not to kill them, but to torment them five months, and their torment was like torment by a scorpion^d when it strikes a person. **6** In those days people will seek death but will by no means find it, and they will long to die, but death will flee from them.

7 And in appearance the locusts resembled horses prepared for battle;^e on their heads were what seemed to be crowns of gold, and their faces were like human faces, **8** but they had hair like women's hair. And their teeth were like those of lions,^f **9** and they had breastplates like iron breastplates. And the sound of their wings was like the sound of horse-drawn chariots rushing into battle.^g **10** Also, they have tails with stingers like scorpions, and in their tails is their authority to hurt the people for five months.^h **11** They have over them a king, the angel of the abyss.ⁱ In Hebrew his name is A-bad'don,* but in Greek he has the name A-pol'lyon.[†]

12 The one woe is past. Look! Two more woes^j are coming after these things.

13 The sixth angel^k blew his trumpet.^l And I heard one voice from the horns of the golden altar^m that is before God **14** say to the sixth angel who had the trumpet: "Untie the four angels

9:2 *Or "pit." 9:11 *Meaning "Destruction." †Meaning "Destroyer."

CHAP. 9

a Joe 2:2,10

b Ex 10:12

c Re 7:2, 3

d Re 9:10

e Joe 2:4, 5

f Joe 1:6

g Joe 2:4, 5

h Re 9:5

i Re 9:1
Re 20:1-3

j Re 8:13

k Re 8:6

l Re 11:15

m Re 8:3

Second Col.

a Re 16:1, 12
Re 17:1, 15

b Pr 28:1

c Ps 115:4-7

CHAP. 10

d Mt 17:1, 2

who are bound at the great river Eu-phra'tes."^a **15** And the four angels who have been prepared for the hour and day and month and year were untied to kill a third of the people.

16 The number of the armies of cavalry was two myriads of myriads;* I heard the number of them. **17** And this is how I saw the horses in the vision and those seated on them: They had fire-red and hyacinth-blue and sulfur-yellow breastplates, and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions,^b and fire and smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths. **18** A third of the people were killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the sulfur that came out of their mouths. **19** For the authority of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with these they inflict harm.

20 But the rest of the people who were not killed by these plagues did not repent of the works of their hands; they did not stop worshipping the demons and the idols of gold and silver and copper and stone and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.^c **21** And they did not repent of their murders nor of their spiritistic practices nor of their sexual immorality* nor of their thefts.

10 And I saw another strong angel descending from heaven, arrayed* with a cloud, and a rainbow was on his head, and his face was like the sun,^d and his legs^e were like pillars of fire, **2** and he had in his hand a little scroll that had been unrolled. And he set his right foot on the sea, but his left one on the

9:16 *Or "20,000 times 10,000," that is, 200,000,000. 9:21 *Greek, *pornei'a*. See Glossary. 10:1 *Or "wrapped." †Lit., "feet."

earth, **3** and he cried out with a loud voice just as when a lion roars.^a And when he cried out, the voices of the seven thunders^b spoke.

4 Now when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write, but I heard a voice out of heaven^c say: "Seal up the things the seven thunders spoke, and do not write them down." **5** The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the earth raised his right hand to heaven, **6** and he swore by the One who lives forever and ever,^d who created the heaven and the things in it and the earth and the things in it and the sea and the things in it:^e "There will be no delay any longer. **7** But in the days when the seventh angel^f is about to blow his trumpet,^g the sacred secret^h that God declared as good news to his own slaves the prophetsⁱ is indeed brought to a finish."

8 And I heard the voice out of heaven^j speaking again with me and saying: "Go, take the opened scroll that is in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the earth."^k **9** I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. He said to me: "Take it and eat it up,^l and it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet like honey." **10** I took the little scroll out of the hand of the angel and ate it,^m and in my mouth it was sweet like honey,ⁿ but when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter. **11** And they said to me: "You must prophesy again about peoples and nations and tongues* and many kings."

11 And a reed like a rod*^o was given to me as he said: "Get up and measure the temple sanctuary of God and the altar and those worshipping in it. **2** But as for the courtyard that

10:11; 11:9 *Or "languages." 11:1 *Or "a measuring rod."

CHAP. 10

a Re 5:5

b Ex 19:16
Re 4:5
Re 11:19

c Re 10:8

d Ps 90:2
Re 4:9

e Ex 20:11
Ne 9:6
Ps 146:6

f Re 8:6

g Re 11:15

h Mr 4:11

i Am 3:7

j Re 10:4

k Re 10:1, 2

l Eze 2:8

m Jer 15:16

n Ps 119:103
Eze 3:1-3

CHAP. 11

o Eze 40:3

Second Col.

a Re 21:2

b Re 13:5

c Zec 4:3, 11

d Zec 4:12
Mt 5:14

e Zec 4:14

f Lu 4:25

g 1Ki 17:1
Jas 5:17

h Ex 7:19

i Re 12:17
Re 13:7

j Re 11:11

k Eze 37:5, 10

is outside the temple sanctuary, leave it out and do not measure it, because it has been given to the nations, and they will trample the holy city^a underfoot for 42 months.^b **3** I will cause my two witnesses to prophesy for 1,260 days dressed in sackcloth." **4** These are symbolized by the two olive trees^c and the two lampstands^d and are standing before the Lord of the earth.^e

5 If anyone wants to harm them, fire comes out of their mouths and consumes their enemies. If anyone should want to harm them, this is how he must be killed. **6** These have the authority to shut up the sky^f so that no rain may fall^g during the days of their prophesying, and they have authority over the waters to turn them into blood^h and to strike the earth with every sort of plague as often as they wish.

7 When they have finished their witnessing, the wild beast that ascends out of the abyss will wage war with them and conquer them and kill them.ⁱ **8** And their corpses will be on the main street of the great city that is in a spiritual sense called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was also executed on the stake. **9** And those of the peoples and tribes and tongues* and nations will look at their corpses for three and a half days,^j and they do not allow their corpses to be laid in a tomb. **10** And those dwelling on the earth rejoice over them and celebrate, and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those dwelling on the earth.

11 After the three and a half days, spirit of life from God entered into them,^k and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell upon those who saw them. **12** And they heard a loud voice

11:6 *Or "heaven."

from heaven say to them: "Come up here." And they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies saw them.* **13** In that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; and 7,000 persons were killed by the earthquake, and the rest became frightened and gave glory to the God of heaven.

14 The second woe^a is past. Look! The third woe is coming quickly.

15 The seventh angel blew his trumpet.^b And there were loud voices in heaven, saying: "The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord^c and of his Christ,^d and he will rule as king forever and ever."^e

16 And the 24 elders^f who were seated before God on their thrones fell upon their faces and worshipped God, **17** saying: "We thank you, Jehovah* God, the Almighty, the one who is^g and who was, because you have taken your great power and begun ruling as king.^h **18** But the nations became wrathful, and your own wrath came, and the appointed time came for the dead to be judged and to reward your slaves the prophetsⁱ and the holy ones and those fearing your name, the small and the great, and to bring to ruin those ruining* the earth."^k

19 And the temple sanctuary of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen in his temple sanctuary.^l And there were flashes of lightning and voices and thunders and an earthquake and a great hail.

12 Then a great sign was seen in heaven: A woman^m was arrayed* with the sun, and the moon was beneath her feet, and

11:12 *Or "were looking on." 11:17 *See App. A5. 11:18 *Or "to destroy those who are destroying." 12:1 *Or "clothed."

CHAP. 11

- a Re 9:12
- b Re 8:6
- c 1Ch 29:11
- Ps 22:28
- Da 4:17, 34
- Re 12:10
- d Ps 2:6
- Da 7:13, 14
- Lu 1:32, 33
- Lu 22:28, 29
- 2Pe 1:11
- e Ps 145:13
- Da 2:44
- f Re 4:10
- g Re 1:4
- Re 16:5
- h Ps 99:1
- Zec 14:9
- Re 19:6
- i Heb 11:6
- j Am 3:7
- Heb 1:1
- Jas 5:10
- k Ge 6:11
- l 1KI 8:1, 6
- Heb 8:1, 2
- Heb 9:11

CHAP. 12

- m Ge 3:15

Second Col.

- a Re 12:9
- Re 20:2
- b Job 38:7
- c Ge 6:2
- Jude 6
- d Ge 3:15
- e Re 11:15
- f Ps 2:9
- Ps 110:2
- Re 19:15
- g Re 12:14
- h Da 10:13
- Da 12:1
- Jude 9
- i Re 12:3
- Re 20:2
- j Ge 3:1
- 2Co 11:3
- Re 12:14
- k Mt 4:1
- Joh 8:44
- Heb 2:14
- Jas 4:7
- 1Pe 5:8
- l 1Ch 21:1
- Job 1:6
- Zec 3:2
- Mt 4:10
- Joh 13:27
- Re 16:20
- 2Th 2:9
- m 2Co 4:4
- 2Co 11:14
- Eph 2:2
- 1Jo 5:19
- n Lu 10:18
- Re 12:13
- o Ro 13:11
- Heb 9:28
- 1Pe 1:5
- p Re 11:15, 17
- q Job 1:9
- Zec 3:1
- r 1Jo 2:14

on her head was a crown of 12 stars, **2** and she was pregnant. And she was crying out in her pains and in her agony to give birth.

3 Another sign was seen in heaven. Look! A great fiery-colored dragon,^a with seven heads and ten horns and on its heads seven diadems;* **4** and its tail drags a third of the stars^b of heaven, and it hurled them down to the earth.^c And the dragon kept standing before the woman^d who was about to give birth, so that when she did give birth, it might devour her child.

5 And she gave birth to a son,^e a male, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod.^f And her child was snatched* away to God and to his throne. **6** And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God and where they would feed her for 1,260 days.^g

7 And war broke out in heaven: Mi'cha-el^h and his angels battled with the dragon, and the dragon and its angels battled **8** but they did not prevail,* nor was a place found for them any longer in heaven. **9** So down the great dragonⁱ was hurled, the original serpent,^j the one called Devil^k and Satan,^l who is misleading the entire inhabited earth;^m he was hurled down to the earth,ⁿ and his angels were hurled down with him. **10** I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

"Now have come to pass the salvation^o and the power and the Kingdom of our God^p and the authority of his Christ, because the accuser of his brothers has been hurled down, who accuses them day and night before our God!^q **11** And they conquered him^r be-

12:3 *Or "royal headbands." 12:5 *Or "caught." 12:7 *Meaning, "Who is Like God?" 12:8 *Or possibly, "but it [that is, the dragon] was defeated."

cause of the blood of the Lamb^a and because of the word of their witnessing,^b and they did not love their souls^c even in the face of death. **12** On this account be glad, you heavens and you who reside in them! Woe for the earth and for the sea,^d because the Devil has come down to you, having great anger, knowing that he has a short period of time.”^e

13 Now when the dragon saw that it had been hurled down to the earth,^f it persecuted the woman^g who gave birth to the male child. **14** But the two wings of the great eagle^h were given to the woman, so that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is to be fed for a time and times and half a timeⁱ away from the face of the serpent.^j

15 And the serpent spewed out water like a river from its mouth after the woman, to cause her to be drowned by the river. **16** But the earth came to the woman's help, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the river that the dragon spewed out from its mouth. **17** So the dragon became enraged at the woman and went off to wage war with the remaining ones of her offspring,^{*k} who observe the commandments of God and have the work of bearing witness concerning Jesus.^l

13 And it* stood still on the sand of the sea.

And I saw a wild beast^m ascending out of the sea,ⁿ with ten horns and seven heads, and on its horns ten diadems,[#] but on its heads blasphemous names. **2** Now the wild beast that I saw was like a leopard, but its feet were like those of a bear, and

12:11 *Or “lives.” See Glossary. 12:14 *That is, three and a half times. 12:17 *Lit., “seed.” 13:1 *That is, the dragon. #Or “royal headbands.”

CHAP. 12

- a 1Pe 1:18, 19
b Ac 1:8
2Ti 1:8
Re 1:9
c Mt 16:25
Lu 14:26
Ac 20:24
d Isa 57:20
Isa 60:2
Re 17:15
e Mt 24:34
Ro 16:20
2Ti 3:1
2Pe 3:3
f Lu 10:18
g Ge 3:15
Re 12:1
h Ex 19:4
Isa 40:31
i Re 12:6
j Ge 3:1
2Co 11:3
k Ge 3:15
l Mt 24:9
Ac 1:8
Re 1:9
Re 6:9

CHAP. 13

- m Re 11:7
Re 13:18
n Isa 57:20
Re 21:1

Second Col.

- a Re 12:9
b Lu 4:6
c Re 13:14
d Re 11:2, 3
e Da 7:25
f Re 12:12
g Re 12:17
h Re 3:5
Re 21:27
i Isa 53:7
Mt 27:50
Re 5:6, 12
j Mt 11:15
k Mt 26:52
l Mt 24:13
Heb 10:36
Heb 12:3
m Re 2:10
n Da 7:18
1Co 6:2
Re 20:6
o Re 16:13
Re 20:2
p Re 13:1

its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And the dragon^a gave to the beast its power and its throne and great authority.^b

3 I saw that one of its heads seemed to have been fatally wounded, but its mortal wound had been healed,^c and all the earth followed the wild beast with admiration. **4** And they worshipped the dragon because it gave the authority to the wild beast, and they worshipped the wild beast with the words: “Who is like the wild beast, and who can do battle with it?” **5** It was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and it was given authority to act for 42 months.^d **6** And it opened its mouth in blasphemies^e against God to blaspheme his name and his dwelling place, even those residing in heaven.^f **7** It was permitted to wage war with the holy ones and conquer them,^g and it was given authority over every tribe and people and tongue* and nation. **8** And all those who dwell on the earth will worship it. From the founding of the world, not one of their names has been written in the scroll of life^h of the Lamb who was slaughtered.ⁱ

9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear.^j **10** If anyone is meant for captivity, he will go into captivity, if anyone will kill with the sword,^{*} he must be killed with the sword.^k This is where it calls for endurance^l and faith^m on the part of the holy ones.ⁿ

11 Then I saw another wild beast ascending out of the earth, and it had two horns like a lamb, but it began speaking like a dragon.^o **12** It exercises all the authority of the first wild beast^p in its sight. And it makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first wild beast, whose mortal

13:7 *Or “language.” 13:10 *Or possibly, “if anyone is to be killed with the sword.”

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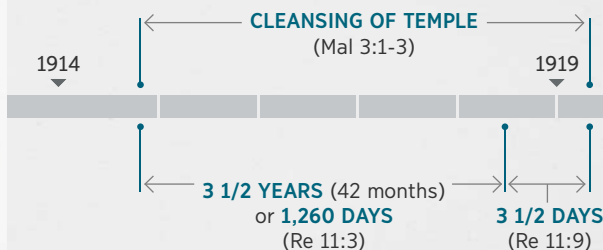


11:3-11

- **“Two witnesses”:** The small group of anointed brothers who were taking the lead when God’s Kingdom was established in 1914
- **Killed:** After preaching for three and a half years “in sackcloth,” they were “killed” when they were imprisoned and forced into inactivity
- **Returned to life:** At the end of the symbolic three and a half days, they returned to life when they were released from prison and resumed taking the lead in the preaching work

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Revelation 11:1, 2 links these events to the inspection and cleansing of the spiritual temple described at Malachi 3:1-3.



December 9-15 / Revelation 10-12

Treasures From God's Word

“Two Witnesses’ Are Killed and Brought Back to Life”: (10 minutes)

Revelation 11:3—“Two witnesses” prophesy for 1,260 days

Revelation 11:3: I will cause my two witnesses to prophesy for 1,260 days dressed in sackcloth.”

w14 11/15 30

Who are the two witnesses mentioned in Revelation chapter 11?

Revelation 11:3 speaks of two witnesses who would prophesy for 1,260 days. The account then says that the wild beast would “conquer them and kill them.” But after “three and a half days,” these two witnesses would be brought back to life, much to the amazement of all onlookers.—Revelation 11:7, 11.

Who are these two witnesses? The details of the account help us to identify them. First, we are told that they “are symbolized by the two olive trees and the two lampstands.” (Revelation 11:4) This reminds us of the lampstand and two olive trees described in the prophecy of Zechariah. Those olive trees were said to picture “the two anointed ones,” that is, Governor Zerubbabel and High Priest Joshua, “standing alongside the Lord of the whole earth.” (Zechariah 4:1-3, 14) Second, the two witnesses are described as performing signs similar to those performed by Moses and Elijah.—Compare Revelation 11:5, 6 with Numbers 16:1-7, 28-35 and 1 Kings 17:1; 18:41-45.

What is the common denominator that links these references? In each case, the account refers to God's anointed ones *who took the lead* during a difficult time of testing. So in the fulfillment of Revelation chapter 11, *the anointed brothers who took the lead* at the time of the establishment of God's Kingdom in heaven in 1914 preached “in sackcloth” for three and a half years.

At the end of their preaching in sackcloth, these anointed ones were symbolically killed when they were thrown into prison for a comparatively shorter period of time, a symbolic three and a half *days*. In the eyes of the enemies of God's people, their work had been killed, causing those opponents much joy.—Revelation 11:8-10.

However, true to the words of the prophecy, at the end of the three and a half days, the two witnesses

were brought back to life. Not only were these anointed ones released from prison but those who remained faithful received a special appointment from God through their Lord, Jesus Christ. In 1919 they were among those who were appointed to serve as a “faithful and discreet slave” to care for the spiritual needs of God’s people during the last days.—Matthew 24:45-47; Revelation 11:11, 12.

Interestingly, Revelation 11:1, 2 links these events to a time when the spiritual temple would be measured, or evaluated. Malachi chapter 3 mentions a similar inspection of the spiritual temple, followed by a time of cleansing. (Malachi 3:1-4) How long did this inspection and cleansing work take? It extended from 1914 to the early part of 1919. This period of time includes both the 1,260 days (42 months) and the symbolic three and a half days referred to in Revelation chapter 11.

How happy we are that Jehovah arranged for this spiritual refining work to cleanse a special people for fine works! (Titus 2:14) Additionally, we appreciate the example set by the faithful anointed ones who took the lead during that time of testing and thereby served as the symbolic two witnesses.

Revelation 11:7—They are killed by “the wild beast”

Revelation 11:7: When they have finished their witnessing, the wild beast that ascends out of the abyss will wage war with them and conquer them and kill them.

Revelation 11:11—The “two witnesses” are brought back to life after “the three and a half days”

Revelation 11:11: After the three and a half days, spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell upon those who saw them.

Digging for Spiritual Gems

Revelation 10:9, 10—How was the message given to John both “bitter” and “sweet”?

Revelation 10:9, 10: I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. He said to me: “Take it and eat it up, and it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet like honey.” I took the little scroll out of the hand of the angel and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet like honey, but when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter.

it-2 880-881

Symbolic Use. There are several instances of symbolic use of the word "scroll" in the Bible. Ezekiel and Zechariah each saw a scroll with writing on both sides. Since only one side of a scroll was commonly used, writing on both sides may refer to the weightiness, extent, and seriousness of the judgments written in these scrolls. (Ezekiel 2:9–3:3; Zechariah 5:1-4) In the vision of Revelation, the one on the throne held in his right hand a scroll having seven seals, preventing detection of what was written until God's Lamb opened them. (Revelation 5:1, 12; 6:1, 12-14) Later in the vision John himself was presented a scroll and was commanded to eat it. It tasted sweet to John but made his belly bitter. Since the scroll was open and not sealed, it was something that was to be understood. It was "sweet" to John to get the message contained therein but apparently had bitter things for him to prophesy, as he was told to do. (Revelation 10:1-11) Ezekiel had a similar experience with the scroll presented to him in which there were "dirges and moaning and wailing."—Ezekiel 2:10.

Revelation 12:1-5—How were these verses fulfilled?

Revelation 12:1-5: Then a great sign was seen in heaven: A woman was arrayed with the sun, and the moon was beneath her feet, and on her head was a crown of 12 stars, and she was pregnant. And she was crying out in her pains and in her agony to give birth. Another sign was seen in heaven. Look! A great fiery-colored dragon, with seven heads and ten horns and on its heads seven diadems; and its tail drags a third of the stars of heaven, and it hurled them down to the earth. And the dragon kept standing before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she did give birth, it might devour her child. And she gave birth to a son, a male, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod. And her child was snatched away to God and to his throne.

it-2 187 paragraphs 7-9

In the apostle John's vision in Revelation he saw a heavenly woman crying out "in her pains and in her agony to give birth." The child born was "a son, a male, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod." In spite of the dragon's efforts to devour it, "her child was caught away to God and to his throne." (Revelation 12:1, 2, 4-6) The son's being caught away by God would denote God's acceptance of the child as his own, even as it was customary in ancient times to present a newborn child before its father for acceptance. (See BIRTH.) It would follow that the "woman" is God's "wife," the "Jerusalem above," the "mother" of Christ and his spiritual brothers.—Galatians 4:26; Hebrews 2:11, 12, 17.

God's heavenly "woman" would, of course, be perfect, and the birth would be without literal pain. The labor pains would, therefore, symbolically indicate that the "woman" would realize that the birth was

at hand; she would be in expectation of it shortly.—Revelation 12:2.

Who would this “son, a male,” be? He was to “shepherd all the nations with an iron rod.” This was foretold of God’s Messianic King, at Psalm 2:6-9. But John saw this vision long after Christ’s birth on earth and his death and resurrection. The vision would therefore appear to refer to the birth of the Messianic Kingdom in the hands of God’s Son Jesus Christ, who, on being raised from the dead, “sat down at the right hand of God, from then on awaiting until his enemies should be placed as a stool for his feet.”—Hebrews 10:12, 13; Psalm 110:1; Revelation 12:10.

What has this week’s Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week’s Bible reading?

Bible Reading: (4 minutes or less) Revelation 10:1-11 (*th* study 10)

- Song 26 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Two Witnesses’ Are Killed and Brought Back to Life”:** (10 min.)
 Re 11:3—“Two witnesses” prophesy for 1,260 days (w14 11/15 30)
 Re 11:7—They are killed by “the wild beast”
 Re 11:11—The “two witnesses” are brought back to life after “the three and a half days”
- **Digging for Spiritual Gems:** (8 min.)
 Re 10:9, 10—How was the message given to John both “bitter” and “sweet”? (it-2 880-881)

Re 12:1-5—How were these verses fulfilled? (it-2 187 ¶7-9)

What has this week’s Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week’s Bible reading?

- **Bible Reading:** (4 min. or less) Re 10:1-11 (10)

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call Video:** (4 min.) Play and discuss the video.
- **Initial Call:** (2 min. or less) Use the sample conversation. (6)
- **Initial Call:** (3 min. or less) Use the sample conversation in an informal setting appropriate to your territory. (3)
- **Initial Call:** (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Then offer a publication from our Teaching Toolbox. (9)

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

- Song 148
- **“The Earth ‘Swallowed Up the River’”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Korean Brothers Released From Prison* (video category OUR ORGANIZATION).
- **Congregation Bible Study:** (30 min.) *jj* chap. 94
- Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)
- Song 47 and Prayer

REVELATION 10-12 | “Two Witnesses” Are Killed and Brought Back to Life

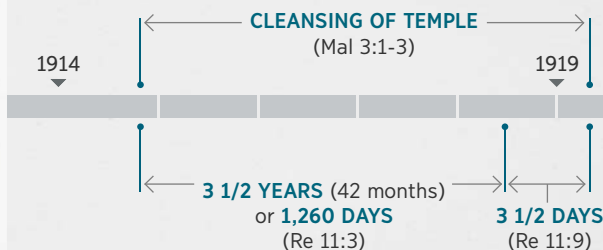


11:3-11

- **“Two witnesses”:** The small group of anointed brothers who were taking the lead when God’s Kingdom was established in 1914
- **Killed:** After preaching for three and a half years “in sackcloth,” they were “killed” when they were imprisoned and forced into inactivity
- **Returned to life:** At the end of the symbolic three and a half days, they returned to life when they were released from prison and resumed taking the lead in the preaching work

PROPHETIC TIME LINE

Revelation 11:1, 2 links these events to the inspection and cleansing of the spiritual temple described at Malachi 3:1-3.





APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

SAMPLE CONVERSATIONS



Question: Where can we find solid advice on how to live a happy life?

Scripture: Ps 1:1, 2

Link: What effect can the love of money and possessions have on our happiness?

INITIAL CALL

Tony (Publisher 1): Hello, my name's Tony, and this is Tim. May I ask your name?

Householder: Are you Jehovah's witnesses?

Tony (Publisher 1): Yes, How did you know?

Householder: Well, you are the only people that go around knocking on doors. Look, my aunt's one of you people, and she talks to me from time to time, but our beliefs are different. I have my own religion.

Tony (Publisher 1): I respect that, it's nice to talk to someone who has an interest in spiritual things. In your opinion, where can we find solid advice on how to live a happy life?

Householder: The Bible has some good ideas.

Tony (Publisher 1): I agree, notice what it says here at Psalm 1:1, 2. Tim, would you please read that for us?

Tim (Publisher 2): Okay, It says:

¹ Happy is the man who does not walk according to the advice of the wicked and does not stand on the path of sinners and does not sit in the seat of scoffers. ² But his delight is in the law of Jehovah, and he reads His law in an undertone day and night.

(Video Pulse):

“What question would you to help the householder get the point?”

Tony (Publisher 1): Thank you, so according to the verse, what actions can lead to happiness?

Householder: Um, be careful with who we spend time with and read the Bible.

Tony (Publisher 1): Basically, yes, the Bible has other helpful advice regarding happiness. For instance, what effect can the love of money and possessions have on our happiness? Maybe the next time we stopped by, we can discuss that question.

Householder: Okay, but don't think I'm going to change my religion.

(Publisher 1): Sure, no pressure, as I mentioned, my name is Tony. What's yours?

Householder: Todd

video source: https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/#en/mediaitems/LatestVideos/pub-mwbv_201912_1_VIDEO



Our Christian Life and Ministry

MEETING WORKBOOK

Sample Conversations



INITIAL CALL

Question: Where can we find solid advice on how to live a happy life?

Scripture: Ps 1:1, 2

Link: What effect can the love of money and possessions have on our happiness?



FIRST RETURN VISIT

Question: What effect can the love of money and possessions have on our happiness?

Scripture: 1Ti 6:9, 10

Link: What are the benefits of maintaining a positive attitude?



SECOND RETURN VISIT

Question: What are the benefits of maintaining a positive attitude?

Scripture: Pr 17:22

Link: How can a family prosper despite difficulties?



Jehovah Provides Escape

(2 Samuel 22:1-8)

A Dm Gm/B \flat A Dm Gm6/B \flat A7+5 Dm A Dm

The liv - ing God, Je - ho - vah, you have proved to be;
 Though ropes of death en - cir - cle me, I call to you,
 From heav - en you will thun - der and give forth your voice.

Dm/F E \flat /G Gm7 A A(b9) A A7 Dm A

Your might - y works a - bound in earth and sky and
 "Je - ho - vah, give me strength, and give me cour - age
 Your en - e - mies will quake; your ser - vants will re -

Dm Gm D7/F \sharp Cadd9/E D/F \sharp D7 Gm Cm7 Cm6 Gm/B \flat D/A Gm

sea. No ri - val god can e - qual what you have done—
 too." From your own tem - ple dwell - ing, you hear my plea,
 joyce. You prove to be what - ev - er you need to be;

Gm6 B \flat /F Gm6/EA7 Dm Gm/B \flat Dm/A B \flat 7 \flat 5 B \flat 7 A Bm7 A/C \sharp A/C \sharp *Chorus*

there is none. Our foes will be con - sumed.
 "Shel - ter me; Res - cue me, O my God." Je -
 all will see How you pro - vide es - cape.

Jehovah Provides Escape

D A/C# G A A7 D D7/C G/B D/A

ho - vah pro - vides es - cape for the loy - al. His ser - vants will

G6 D/A G/B D/A Bm6/G# A D D7 G Em6/G

see what a might - y Crag is he. So with cour - age and

R.H. R.H.

D/F# F#/A# Bm D7/A G A9/G D/F# D Em11 D/F#

faith in our God, we spread the fame Of Je -

G Em7 G D/F# F#/A# Bm D7/A Em/G A7 D

ho - vah, our Source of es - cape, and praise his name.

R.H.

- Song 26 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Two Witnesses’ Are Killed and Brought Back to Life”:** (10 min.)
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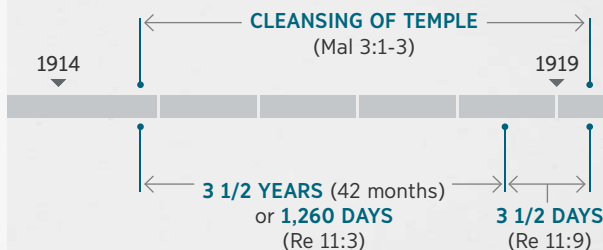


11:3-11

- **“Two witnesses”:** The small group of anointed brothers who were taking the lead when God’s Kingdom was established in 1914
- **Killed:** After preaching for three and a half years “in sackcloth,” they were “killed” when they were imprisoned and forced into inactivity
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PROPHETIC TIME LINE

Revelation 11:1, 2 links these events to the inspection and cleansing of the spiritual temple described at Malachi 3:1-3.



The Earth “Swallowed Up the River”



At various times throughout history, secular authorities have helped Jehovah’s people. (Ezr 6:1-12; Es 8:10-13) Even in modern times, we have seen “the earth”—elements of this system that are more reasonable—swallow up “the river” of persecution instigated by “the dragon,” Satan the Devil. (Re 12:16) Jehovah, the “God who saves,” may at times move human rulers to provide relief for his people. —Ps 68:20; Pr 21:1.

What, though, if you are imprisoned because of your faith? Never doubt that Jehovah is watching over you. (Ge 39:21-23; Ps 105:17-20) Be assured that your faith will be rewarded and that your integrity encourages your brothers worldwide.—Php 1:12-14; Re 2:10.



WATCH THE VIDEO *KOREAN BROTHERS RELEASED FROM PRISON, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:*



- Why were thousands of our brothers imprisoned in South Korea over the years?

- What court rulings led to the early release of some of our brothers?

- How can we help our brothers around the world who are currently imprisoned because of their faith?



- How should we use any freedom we currently enjoy?

- Who is ultimately responsible for any court victories we obtain?

How am I using my personal freedom?



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Korean Brothers Released From Prison

Welcome to this special news update.

As reported in the news room section of JW org, on November 30 2018 the South Korean government released 57 of our brothers who had been in prison for conscientious objection. The governing body, together with our worldwide brotherhood, rejoices with these brothers and their families.

The Ministry of Justice granted an early release for our brothers who had already served at least six months of their 18-month sentence. We expect that the remaining eight brothers will also be released sometime after they've served six months of their sentence. They will be the last of the more than 19,000 witnesses who have been sent to prison in Korea since 1953.

But what led to this momentous event? During 2018 a series of historic court rulings in Korea finally recognized conscientious objection as a fundamental right. This development now puts South Korea in line with many other countries in the world who say that refraining from military service for religious reasons is not a crime. As a result of these rulings the prison doors were opened for 57 brothers.

Recently our branch received a report from the elders appointed to assist our imprisoned brothers. They said that brothers who have served at least six months of their sentence could be released early on parole.

(A Korean couple who had a son in prison speak)

(Wife) It was such great news that I almost couldn't believe it.

(Husband) My son will be released two months earlier than expected. I've heard that two months in prison feels very long. Well even a single day feels long.

Since our brothers in the past had been allowed parole after serving at least 14 months, this was a great surprise to our brothers and many were beside themselves with joy.

(Husband) It's been over a year since I've been able to hug my son. When I meet him tomorrow the first thing I want to do is give him a warm hug and tell him he did a good job staying strong in prison.

(Wife) My son was a caregiver for Ella mates, which can be dangerous because of blood borne diseases. So he'd always showed me he had no open wounds on his hands and feet. Tomorrow I'll be able to hold those hands, and I don't plan on letting go.

Finally, 57 brothers were released at the same time, from 16 different prisons throughout South Korea. It's an amazing development.

The Supreme Court's not guilty decision last month was pivotal in our brother's early release. It stated that those who object to military service based on a conviction that his deep firm and genuine should be protected. Many developments in the past few years led up to this wonderful outcome. For example, since 2007, the governing body provided assistance and encouragement to our brothers to make a fine defense in court. As a result more than 120 "not guilty" decisions were rendered at the lower courts.

The Constitutional Court, which had deliberated on this issue for many years, rendered a historic decision declaring that the absence of alternative service is unconstitutional. Furthermore, international human rights organizations recommended the releasing of conscientious objectors. Also our brothers worldwide have prayed incessantly for our imprisoned brothers. We believe these were an important factor that brought about this great change. They also sent many letters of encouragement for our brothers to the branch, and every one of these were forwarded to them. There is no doubt these helped our brothers to endure.

Now our brothers, who were separated from their families for many months, have been reunited.

(Released son of couple) I've been looking forward to this day so much and I'm so happy to be with my family again.

(Husband) Thanks to Jehovah's protection we're able to have our son back in our arms in good health.

We welcome this decision and are overjoyed at the early release of our brothers. We look forward to seeing our brothers using their freedom to bring praise to Jehovah. He has brought salvation and shown favor to our brothers walking the path of integrity for the past 65 years. We are grateful for Jehovah's loving care.

First Peter chapter 2 verse 19 states:

"It is agreeable when someone endures hardship and suffers unjustly because of conscience toward God."

This strongly applies to you brothers in Korea. Through you a long legacy of faith and endurance you have set a *sterling* example of integrity, and given a *powerful* witness. As a result you have Jehovah's smile of approval.

Our thanks go to your families, and all those around the world who have kept you in their prayers. The words of Romans 10:11 echo a fundamental truth about Jehovah: "No one who rests his faith on him will be disappointed." Yes, all praise and honor go to Jehovah.

TWO GREAT NEEDS—PRAYER AND HUMILITY

LUKE 18:1-14

Jesus has already told his disciples an illustration about being persistent in prayer. (Luke 11: 5-13) He may now be in Samaria or in Galilee, and he again emphasizes the need not to give up in praying. He does so with this further illustration:

“In a certain city there was a judge who had no fear of God and no respect for man. There was also a widow in that city who kept going to him and saying, ‘See that I get justice from my



legal opponent.’ Well, for a while he was unwilling, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Although I do not fear God or respect any man, because this widow keeps making me trouble, I will see that she gets justice so that she will not keep coming and wearing me out with her demand.’”
—Luke 18:2-5.

As to the application, Jesus says: “Hear what the judge, although unrighteous, said! Certainly, then, will not God cause justice to be done for his chosen ones who cry out to him day and night, while he is patient toward them?” (Luke 18:6, 7) What is Jesus thus indicating about his Father?

Jesus certainly does not mean that Jehovah God is in any way like the unrighteous judge. His point involves a contrast: If even an unrighteous human judge will respond to persistent entreaties, God unquestionably will do so. He is righteous and good and will answer if his people do not give up in praying. We can see that from what Jesus adds: “I tell you, [God] will cause justice to be done to them speedily.”
—Luke 18:8.

The lowly and the poor often do not receive justice, whereas the powerful and the rich often are favored. But that is not God’s way. When the time is ripe, he will justly see to it that the wicked are punished and that his servants receive everlasting life.

Who have faith like that of the widow? How many truly believe that God will “cause justice to be done to them speedily”? Jesus has just illustrated the need to persist in prayer. Now, as to faith in the power of prayer, he asks: “When the Son of man arrives, will he really find this faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8) The implication is that such faith may not be common when Christ arrives.

Some who are listening to Jesus feel self-assured in their faith. They trust in themselves that they are righteous, whereas they look down on others. To such ones, Jesus directs this illustration:

“Two men went up into the temple to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and began to pray these things to himself, ‘O God, I thank you that I am not like everyone else—extortioners, unrighteous, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give the tenth of all things I acquire.’”
—Luke 18:10-12.

The Pharisees are known to make public displays of their seeming righteousness. They do so to impress others. The usual occasions for their self-imposed fasts are on Mondays and Thursdays, the days large markets are busy, when many will see them. And they scrupulously pay a tithe of even small plants. (Luke 11:42) A few months earlier, they expressed their contempt for the common people, saying: “This crowd who do not know the Law [according to the Pharisees’ view] are accursed people.”—John 7:49.

Jesus continues his illustration: “But the tax collector, standing at a distance, was not willing even to raise his eyes heavenward but kept

beating his chest, saying, ‘O God, be gracious to me, a sinner.’” Yes, the tax collector humbly acknowledges his shortcomings. Jesus concludes: “I tell you, this man went down to his home and was proved more righteous than that Pharisee. Because everyone who exalts himself will be humiliated, but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”—Luke 18:13, 14.

Thus Jesus makes clear the need to be humble. That is beneficial counsel for his disciples, who have been reared in a society in which the self-righteous Pharisees stress position and rank. And it is valuable counsel for all of Jesus’ followers.



- ◇ Jesus makes what point in his illustration of the unrighteous judge who grants the widow’s request?
- ◇ What faith will Jesus look for when he arrives?
- ◇ Jesus’ followers need to avoid what attitude common among the Pharisees?

Pray to Jehovah Each Day

(1 Thessalonians 5:17)

E♭ Eb/G A♭6 B♭7 E♭ma7 E♭ G/D Cm

Pray to Je - ho - vah, the Hear - er of prayer. This is our
 Pray to Je - ho - vah, give thanks that we live, Ask - ing for -
 Pray to Je - ho - vah when trou - bles ap - pear. He is our

Fm/A♭ B♭7 E♭ A♭ B♭7/A♭ Gm7 E♭/G G7/B

priv - 'lege, for his name we bear. O - pen your heart as you
 give - ness as we do for - give. May we con - fess to our
 Fa - ther and ev - er so near. Seek his pro - tec - tion, and

Cm B♭/F F7 B♭7 Fm7/C B♭7/D E♭ E♭/G A♭6 B♭7

would to a friend, Trust that on Him you can al - ways de -
 God whom we trust. He is our Mak - er and knows we are
 look for his aid; He is our con - fi - dence; don't be a -

B♭m6/D♭ C7 Fm C7+5/F Fm7 B♭7 E♭sus4 E♭ B♭7sus4 E♭

pend. Pray to Je - ho - vah each day.
 dust. Pray to Je - ho - vah each day.
 fraid. Pray to Je - ho - vah each day.

OCTOBER 2019

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
DECEMBER 2-29, 2019

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Why Do I Always Say the Wrong Thing?

What advice can help you to think before you speak?

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HELP FOR THE FAMILY

What if My Child Is Being Bullied?

Four steps that can help you teach your child how to respond to a bully.

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On jw.org, go to BIBLE TEACHINGS > MARRIAGE & FAMILY > RAISING CHILDREN.

COVER PICTURE:

Jesus and his heavenly army will soon ride into the war of Armageddon to destroy God's enemies! (See study article 41, paragraph 17)

Visit the jw.org® website, or scan code



We Will Keep Enduring

(Matthew 24:13)

G C/G Gma7 C/G G/D Bm7

How can we en - dure When tri - als come, as Je - sus
 Though the pass - ing years May bring us sor - row, bring us
 We will not give up Nor see the need for doubt or

C G6/B Am Bm11 Am/C Am/G

said?
 pain;
 fear.

Through his pain he saw The joy of
 There be - yond the tears, We see the
 Faith - ful - ly we'll serve Un - til Je -

Am/F# Am/B B7 Cadd9 C

bet - ter things a - head. God's prom - ise, God's
 life that we can gain. To be there, feel
 ho - vah's day is here. Let's keep on en -

Am11 Am7 C/D D7sus4 D7 Chorus

jus - tice, Were thoughts on which he fed.
 free there, De - ter - mined we re - main. We
 dur - ing. That time is ver - y near.

We Will Keep Enduring

Chords: G, D/F#, Em7, Bm/D, Em/D, C, D7sus4

need to have en - dur - ance. Our faith we must de -

The first system of musical notation features a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The bass line is composed of block chords. The lyrics are positioned below the treble staff.

Chords: G, D/F#, Em, D, Cadd9, G/B

fend. His love is our as - sur - ance. So

The second system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics 'fend. His love is our as - sur - ance. So' are placed under the treble staff.

Chords: Am7, G6/B, C, C/D, G

we will keep en - dur - ing to the end.

The third system concludes the piece. The lyrics 'we will keep en - dur - ing to the end.' are placed under the treble staff. The piece ends with a double bar line.

SONG 129

We Will Keep Enduring

PREVIEW

We know that a “great tribulation” will soon come upon mankind. What will that mean for us? What will Jehovah expect us to do then? What qualities do we need to strengthen now in order to stay faithful? We will find out in this article.

Stay Faithful Through the “Great Tribulation”

“Love Jehovah, all you who are loyal to him! Jehovah protects the faithful.”—PS. 31:23.

IMAGINE that the nations have just made their long-awaited proclamation of “peace and security.” They may boast that the world has never been so safe. The nations will want us to think that they have the world situation under control. But they have absolutely no control over what will follow! Why not? According to Bible prophecy, “sudden destruction is to be instantly on them, . . . and they will by no means escape.”—1 Thess. 5:3.

² There are important questions that need answers: What will happen during the “great tribulation”? What will Jehovah expect us to do during that time? And how can we prepare ourselves now to stay faithful through the great tribulation?—Matt. 24:21.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THE “GREAT TRIBULATION”?

³ **Read Revelation 17:5, 15-18.** “Babylon the Great” will be destroyed! As mentioned earlier, the nations will have no control over what happens at this point. Why not? Because “God [will] put it into their hearts to carry out *his thought*.” What is that thought? To de-

1-2. (a) What will the nations proclaim one day soon? (b) What questions need to be answered?

3. According to Revelation 17:5, 15-18, how will God destroy “Babylon the Great”?

stroy the world empire of false religion, including Christendom.* God will put his thought into the hearts of “the ten horns” of the “scarlet-colored wild beast.” The ten horns represent all the political powers that support “the wild beast”—the United Nations. (Rev. 17:3, 11-13; 18:8) When those political powers turn on false religion, that will mark the beginning of the great tribulation. It will be a truly catastrophic world event.

4 We do not know what reasons the nations might give to justify their attack on Babylon the Great. They might say that the world’s religions are an obstacle to peace and that they constantly meddle in politics. Or they might say that those religious organizations have

* **EXPRESSION EXPLAINED:** **Christendom** is made up of religions that claim to be Christian but that do not teach people to worship Jehovah according to his standards.

4. (a) What might the nations say to justify their attack on false religion? (b) What will the former members of those religions likely do?

accumulated too much wealth and property. (Rev. 18:3, 7) It seems reasonable that this attack will not mean that all the *members* of those religions will be destroyed. Rather, it seems that the nations will get rid of the religious *organizations*. Once those organizations are gone, the former members will realize that their religious leaders failed them and will likely try to distance themselves from those religions.

5 The Bible does not indicate how long the destruction of Babylon the Great will take, but we do know that it will take place within a relatively brief time. (Rev. 18:10, 21) Jehovah has promised that he will “cut short the days” of the tribulation so that his “chosen ones” and true religion will survive. (Mark 13:19, 20) But what will Jehovah expect us to do between the start of the great tribulation and the war of Armageddon?

5. What has Jehovah promised about the great tribulation, and why?



May we never forsake our meeting together, even during difficult times
(See paragraph 7)

KEEP UPHOLDING JEHOVAH'S PURE WORSHIP

⁶ As discussed in the preceding article, Jehovah expects his worshippers to separate themselves from Babylon the Great. However, this requires more than our cutting ties with false religion. We must be determined to uphold true religion—the pure worship of Jehovah. Consider two ways that we can do that.

⁷ First, we must *remain firm for Jehovah's righteous moral standards*. We cannot accept the world's values and standards. For example, we do not approve of sexual immorality of any kind, including marriage between people of the same sex and other homosexual lifestyles. (Matt. 19:4, 5; Rom. 1:26, 27) Second, we must *continue worshipping with our fellow Christians*. We do this wherever we can, whether in our Kingdom Halls or, when necessary, in private homes or even in secret. No matter what happens, we cannot let up in our routine of meeting together for worship. In fact, we need to meet together “all the more so as [we] see the day drawing near.” —**Read Hebrews 10:24, 25.**

⁸ During the great tribulation, the message that we proclaim will likely change. Currently, we are preaching the good news of the Kingdom and we are endeavoring to make disciples. But at that

6. Why is it not enough simply to cut ties with false religion?

7. (a) How can we remain firm for Jehovah's righteous moral standards? (b) How does Hebrews 10:24, 25 emphasize the importance of our meeting together, especially now?

8. How will our message likely change in the future?

time, we may well deliver a message as hard-hitting as hailstones. (Rev. 16:21) We may proclaim the impending doom of Satan's world. In time, we will find out exactly what our message will be and how we will deliver it. Will we use the same methods we have used for over a hundred years to accomplish our ministry? Or will we use some other methods? We will have to wait and see. In any case, it seems that we will have the privilege of boldly proclaiming Jehovah's judgment message!—Ezek. 2:3-5.

⁹ Quite likely, our message will provoke the nations into trying to silence us once and for all. Just as we rely on Jehovah for support in our ministry now, we will need his support then. We can be sure that our God will fill us with power to accomplish his will.—Mic. 3:8.

KEEP READY FOR THE ATTACK ON GOD'S PEOPLE

¹⁰ **Read Luke 21:25-28.** During the great tribulation, people will be shocked as they see everything that they once thought to be so stable in the world begin to fail. They will be in “anguish,” fearing for their very lives as they enter the darkest period of human existence. (Zeph. 1:14, 15) At that time, life will likely get more difficult even for Jehovah's people. Because we remain no part of the world, we may suffer some hardships. We may have to go without certain necessities.

9. How may the nations react to our message, but of what can we be sure?

10. As foretold at Luke 21:25-28, how will most of mankind react to what happens during the great tribulation?

¹¹ At some point, the people whose religions were destroyed may resent the fact that Jehovah’s Witnesses keep practicing their religion. We can only imagine the uproar that this might create, including on social media. The nations and their ruler, Satan, will hate us for having the only surviving religion. They will not have attained their goal to eliminate all religion from the face of the earth. So we will become the center of their attention. At this point, the nations will take on the role of Gog of Magog.* They will band together to make a vicious, all-out attack on Jehovah’s people. (Ezek. 38:2, 14-16) It can be somewhat unsettling to think about those possibilities when we cannot be certain of the exact details. However, one thing is sure: We do not need to fear the great tribulation. Jehovah will give us lifesaving instructions. (Ps. 34:19) We will be able to “stand up straight and lift up [our] heads” because we will know that our “deliverance is getting near.”#

¹² “The faithful and discreet slave” has been preparing us to stay faithful through the great tribulation. (Matt. 24:45) This has been done in many ways,

* **EXPRESSION EXPLAINED:** The term **Gog of Magog** (and its shortened form, Gog) refers to a coalition of nations that will fight against pure worship during the great tribulation.

For a more extensive discussion of all the events leading up to the war of Armageddon, see chapter 21 of the book *God’s Kingdom Rules!* For more details about the attack of Gog of Magog and how Jehovah will defend his people during Armageddon, see chapters 17 and 18 of the book *Pure Worship of Jehovah—Restored At Last!*

11. (a) Why will Jehovah’s Witnesses become the center of attention? (b) Why do we not need to fear the great tribulation?

12. How has “the faithful and discreet slave” been preparing us for what is coming in the future?

but consider one example: our timely convention programs for the years 2016-2018. Through those programs, we have been encouraged to strengthen the qualities that we need as we near Jehovah’s day. Let us briefly review those qualities.

KEEP STRENGTHENING YOUR LOYALTY, ENDURANCE, AND COURAGE

¹³ **Loyalty:** The theme of the 2016 convention program was “Remain Loyal to Jehovah!” This program taught us that if we have a strong personal relationship with Jehovah, we will be loyal to him. We were reminded that we can draw close to Jehovah through meaningful prayer and diligent study of his Word. Doing so gives us the strength to overcome even the most challenging obstacles. As Satan’s system nears its end, we can expect to face ever more difficult tests of loyalty to God and his Kingdom. We will likely continue to be the target of ridicule. (2 Pet. 3:3, 4) This may especially happen as our neutrality is tested more and more. We must strengthen our loyalty now so that we will remain loyal during the great tribulation.

¹⁴ During the great tribulation, a change will take place regarding the brothers who take the lead on earth. At some point, all anointed ones who are still on earth will be gathered to heaven to share in the war of Armageddon. (Matt. 24:31; Rev. 2:26, 27) This means that the Governing Body will no longer

13. How can we strengthen our loyalty to Jehovah, and why must we do so now?

14. (a) What change will take place regarding the brothers who take the lead on earth? (b) Why will we need to be loyal at that time?

Prepare now to survive the
“great tribulation”
(See paragraphs 13-16)



The Way People Will Be Then

Lovers of others, lovers of spiritual treasures, modest, humble, praisers of God, obedient to parents, thankful, loyal, having great affection for their families, open to agreement, always speaking well of others, self-controlled, mild, lovers of goodness, trustworthy, yielding, lowly in mind, lovers of God rather than lovers of pleasures, motivated by genuine godliness.

be with us on earth. However, the great crowd will remain organized. Capable brothers from among the other sheep will take the lead. We will need to show our loyalty by supporting these brothers and by following their God-given direction. Our survival will depend on it!

¹⁵ **Endurance:** The theme of the 2017 convention program was “Don’t Give Up!” This program helped us to strength-

15. How can we strengthen our endurance, and why is it important to do so now?

en our ability to withstand trials. We learned that our endurance does not depend on favorable circumstances. We can strengthen our endurance by relying on Jehovah. (Rom. 12:12) May we never forget what Jesus promised: “The one who **endures to the end** will be saved.” (Matt. 24:13, ftn.) This promise means that we must remain faithful despite any challenges we face. By enduring each trial now, we can become stronger before the outbreak of the great tribulation.

¹⁶ **Courage:** The theme of the 2018 convention program was “Be Courageous!” This program reminded us that our personal abilities do not determine whether we are courageous. As with endurance, true courage comes from relying on Jehovah. How can we strengthen our reliance on him? By reading his Word every day and meditating on how Jehovah saved his people in the past. (Ps. 68:20; 2 Pet. 2:9) When the nations attack us during the great tribulation, we will need to be courageous and to trust in Jehovah as never before. (Ps. 112:7, 8; Heb. 13:6) If we rely on Jehovah now, we will have the courage we need to face Gog’s attack.*

LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR DELIVERANCE

¹⁷ As mentioned in the preceding article, most of us have lived our entire life

* The 2019 convention program with the theme “Love Never Fails!” convinces us that we can remain ever safe under Jehovah’s loving protection.—1 Cor. 13:8.

16. What determines whether we are courageous, and how can we strengthen our courage now?

17. Why do we not have to fear Armageddon? (See cover picture.)

during the last days. But we also have the prospect of living through the great tribulation. The war of Armageddon will be the grand finale to the conclusion of this system of things. However, we have nothing to fear. Why? Because this will be God's fight. (Prov. 1:33; Ezek. 38:18-20; Zech. 14:3) At Jehovah's signal, Jesus Christ will lead the charge. He will have alongside him the resurrected anointed ones and myriads of angels. Together, they will war against Satan, his demons, and their earthly forces.—Dan. 12:1; Rev. 6:2; 17:14.

¹⁸ Jehovah has guaranteed: "No weapon formed against you will have any success." (Isa. 54:17) "A great crowd" of Jehovah's faithful worshippers will "come out of the great tribulation" alive! Then they will continue to render him sacred service. **(Read Revelation 7:9, 13-17.)** How the Bible fills us with confidence about the future! We know that "Jehovah protects the faithful." (Ps. 31:23) All who love and praise Jehovah will de-

18. (a) What has Jehovah guaranteed? (b) How does Revelation 7:9, 13-17 fill you with confidence about the future?

light to see him vindicate his holy name.—Ezek. 38:23.

¹⁹ Think of how 2 Timothy 3:2-5 might be worded if it were describing people in the new world free of Satan's influence. (See the box "The Way People Will Be Then.") Brother George Gangas,* who served as a member of the Governing Body, described it this way: "What kind of world will that be when everybody will be a brother or a sister! Soon you will have the privilege of living in the new system of things. You will live as long as Jehovah lives. We are going to live forever." What a wonderful prospect that is!

* See the article "His Deeds Follow Him" in the December 1, 1994, issue of *The Watchtower*.

19. What wonderful prospect awaits us in the near future?

PICTURE DESCRIPTIONS **Page 15:** During the great tribulation, a small group of Witnesses courageously meets in a forest to hold a congregation meeting. **Page 18:** A great crowd of Jehovah's faithful worshippers will come out of the great tribulation, alive and happy!

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT . . .

- the destruction of "Babylon the Great"?
- the need to keep upholding true worship?
- the need to strengthen our loyalty, endurance, and courage?

Be Steadfast, Immovable!

(1 Corinthians 15:58)

Am Dm7 Dm6

Na - tions are trou - bled as nev - er be - fore.
Snares of the world and temp - ta - tions a - bound.
Give to God wor - ship that comes from the heart.

R.H.

E7sus4 E7 Bm/E E7 Am9 Am

Peo - ple are fear - ful of what lies in store.
We can re - sist if our think - ing is sound.
In the Lord's ser - vice may we have a part.

Am Dm9 Dm

Firm and im - mov - a - ble we need to be,
Hat - ing what's bad while we love what is true
Preach the good news, al - ways hold - ing it fast.

Am/E E7 D/F# E7/G# Am

Serv - ing our God faith - ful - ly.
Makes us im - mov - a - ble too.
Soon the last days will have passed.

Be Steadfast, Immovable!

Chorus

A F#m7 Bm7 E7 Bm7/F# E7/G#

Stead - fast we all need to be;

Bm7 E7 Asus4 A

Far from this world we keep free,

D6 Dma7 Bm7 A/E

Stand - ing firm to the end,

A C#m7/G# F#m7 E13sus4 E7 A

Un - end - ing life we'll see.

(See also Luke 21:9; 1 Pet. 4:7.)

